



Established in 1998

Michael Clarke  
Executive Director

Victor A. Rice  
Ravelin LLC  
Chair, Local Advisory  
Committee

**BY THE NUMBERS**  
**CUMULATIVE**  
**(LISC and Affiliates)**

**Total Investment**  
**\$69 million**

**Dollars Leveraged**  
**\$118.3 million**

**Commercial Space**  
**176,209 sq. ft.**

**Homes & Apartments**  
**165 - LISC**  
**534 - Affiliates**  
**699 Total**



St. John Town Homes

**2008 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Encouraging Growth on Buffalo's West Side** – With financial and technical support from LISC, three organizations that make up the West Side Community Collaborative continued to make progress and attract new resources. People United for Sustainable Housing completed its second rental rehabilitation project, applied for state funding for an additional project, and adopted a five-year housing production plan. Micro-Biz Buffalo developed a small loan pool for entrepreneurs thanks to increased funding from local foundations. Massachusetts Avenue Project continued its sustainable food supply initiative and community garden/vacant lot reclamation program, and secured funding for its Food Ventures micro-enterprise initiative. In addition, all three organizations began work on a plan to revitalize the Grant Street commercial district.

**Addressing the Issue of Vacant Properties** – Buffalo LISC continued to promote public policies designed to offer solutions to the region's high prevalence of vacant properties. LISC maintained a leading role in local discussions, and helped form the Erie County Legislature's Distressed Properties Task Force. LISC also worked with State Assembly Member Sam Hoyt to create a land bank bill that would allow municipalities to return vacant properties to productive use, which has passed the Assembly and Senate unanimously. We will work with the Governor's office to ensure the final version of the bill benefits the communities we serve.

**Supporting Redevelopment in the Larkin District** – LISC's partners continued to make progress toward the redevelopment of the Larkin District, one of Buffalo's earliest manufacturing areas. With support from LISC, the Old First Ward Community Association received funding to make improvements to 19 existing owner-occupied homes, and efforts are underway to explore the feasibility of developing affordable housing adjacent to the Larkin Terminal Warehouse, a former packaging and shipping facility that has been converted into office space.

**Raising LISC's Profile** – Buffalo LISC's work was featured in local publications, on the city's public access channel, and on-line discussion forums. Further, more than 80 public, nonprofit and for-profit representatives attended two sessions exploring LISC's *Building Sustainable Communities* strategy. LISC also testified at the first hearing of the Revitalizing Older Cities Task Force, a congressional group that focuses on legislative actions that aim to restore aging industrial cities throughout the Northeast and Midwest.